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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

WO 00/24429 (51) International Patent Classification 7: (11) International Publication Number: A2 A61K 49/00 4 May 2000 (04.05.00) (43) International Publication Date: (74) Agents: GOLDING, Louise et al.; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 PCT/GB99/03488 (21) International Application Number: Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB). (22) International Filing Date: 22 October 1999 (22.10.99)

GB

(63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application

US

9823175.6

(30) Priority Data:

60/107212 (CIP)

Filed on

5 November 1998 (05.11.98)

22 October 1998 (22.10.98)

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(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

(54) Title: COMPOUND

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to the use as a contrast agent in MR imaging of a physiologically tolerable lanthanide compound or salt thereof having first and second oxidation states which differ in relaxivity by a factor of at least 5, and which is convertible in vivo from said first to said second oxidation state whereby contrast is enhanced in a body region in which conversion to said second state does or does not occur.